

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A domed packing material comprising:

a substrate comprising a plurality of layers; and

a plurality of domes formed in the substrate;

wherein the domes formed in the substrate nest to take up a minimal amount of space, and can be separated and disoriented to occupy a larger space.

2. The packing material of claim 1 wherein the domes vary in size and shape.

3. The packing material of claim 2 wherein the domes vary in direction.

4. The packing material of claim 3 wherein the domes are varied in positioning.

5. The packing material of claim 1 wherein each dome in the plurality of layers has the same height.

6. The packing material of claim 1 wherein the domes nest completely.

7.

A method for forming a domed packing material comprising:

providing a substrate;

folding the substrate to form a plurality of layers;

forming domes in the folded substrate;

unfolding the substrate to ~~disorient the domes~~; and

regain the size of the original sheet US 6/26/00

utilizing the domed substrate as packing material.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the dome substrate further includes perforation lines for removing portions of the substrate for use as a packing material.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the substrate is eight and one-half by eleven inches and can be packaged in a standard letter paper size box.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the substrate is eight and one-half by fourteen inches and can be packaged in a standard legal paper size box.

11. A method of making a domed packing material comprising:

providing a plurality of film layers;

positioning the layers together to form a composite substrate;

forming a plurality of domes in the composite substrate; and

packaging the domed composite substrate.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising varying the size of the domes.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising varying the shapes of the domes.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising varying the direction of the domes.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising varying the positioning of the domes.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein the domed composite material can be utilized as packing material by separating layers; disorienting the layers; and positioning the layers about an item to pack same.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein domes are formed continuously by textured rollers.

18. The method of claim 11 wherein domes are formed in a press.

Ref #3
19. The method of claim 11 wherein the domed composite substrate is packaged in rolls.

20. The method of claim 11 wherein the domed composite substrate is cut and packaged in a stack relationship.

21. The method of claim 11 wherein the domed composite substrate is folded and stacked and packaged in boxes.

22. The method of using a domed packing material comprising:

obtaining a piece of composite domed packing material having a plurality of layers with domes;

separating the layers;

disorienting the layers; and

utilizing the disoriented layers to place about an object to be packed.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the step of obtaining a piece of domed composite packing the material comprises cutting a desired length off the roll

24. The method of claim 22 wherein the step of obtaining a piece of domed composite packing material comprises choosing a proper size piece of material.

25. The method of claim 22 wherein after use, the material is discarded.

26. The method of claim 23 wherein prior to discarding the domes are crushed flat.

27. A press for forming domes in a substrate including a plurality of layers comprising:

an upper press having a clamping plate with a receptacle therein and a die plate with a dome die;

a lower press having a clamping plate with a receptacle and a lower die plate with a dome die;

the upper and lower clamp plates positionable together to engage the substrate; and

the upper and lower die plates with dome dies movable to extend into the receptacle of the lower and upper clamp plates to deform the substrate to form domes therein.

or without
6/26/00

dies PS 6/26/00